

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Office of Medicaid**

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Pursuant to the authority of M.G.L. c. 6A, section 16 and in accordance with M.G.L. c. 30A, a remote public hearing will be held on Friday, February 25, 2022, at 2:00 p.m. relative to the adoption of:

130 CMR 408.000: Adult Foster Care

The proposed amendments to the adult foster care (AFC) program regulations at 130 CMR 408.000 incorporate certain program requirements pertaining to group adult foster care (GAFC) and provide certain clarifications and enhancements to GAFC program requirements such as clarifying and strengthening provider eligibility requirements; clarifying clinical eligibility requirements; promoting access to GAFC services for members who need lower levels of personal care assistance in a greater array of settings; clarifying the definition of direct care aide workers; expanding and enhancing providing responsibilities including fiscal soundness and accreditation; and requiring use of electronic visit verification (EVV). Certain clarifications to the AFC requirements are also included in this proposed amendment, including requirements related to accreditation; nursing oversight and care management visits; community support specialist requirements; and AFC provider requirements for caregiver oversight.

The proposed regulation is planned to go into effect no sooner than August 1, 2022. There is no fiscal impact on cities and towns.

To register to testify at the hearing and to get instructions on how to join the hearing online, go to www.mass.gov/service-details/masshealth-public-hearings. To join the hearing by phone, call (646) 558-8656 and enter meeting ID 935 397 8200# when prompted.

You may also submit written testimony instead of, or in addition to, live testimony. To submit written testimony, please email your testimony to masshealthpublicnotice@mass.gov as an attached Word or PDF document or as text within the body of the email with the name of the regulation in the subject line. All written testimony must include the sender's full name, mailing address, and organization or affiliation, if any. Individuals who are unable to submit testimony by email should mail written testimony to EOHHS, c/o D. Briggs, 100 Hancock Street, 6th Floor, Quincy, MA 02171. Written testimony will be accepted through 5:00 p.m. on Friday, February 25, 2022. MassHealth specifically invites comments as to how the amendments may affect beneficiary access to care.

To review the current draft of the proposed actions, go to www.mass.gov/service-details/masshealth-public-hearings or request a copy in writing from MassHealth Publications, 100 Hancock Street, 6th Floor, Quincy, MA 02171.

Special accommodation requests may be directed to the Disability Accommodations Ombudsman by email at ADAAccommodations@mass.gov or by phone at (617) 847-3468 (TTY: (617) 847-3788 for people who are deaf, hard of hearing, or speech disabled). Please allow two weeks to schedule sign language interpreters.

MassHealth may adopt a revised version of the proposed actions taking into account relevant comments and any other practical alternatives that come to its attention.

In case of inclement weather or other emergency, hearing cancellation announcements will be posted on the MassHealth website at www.mass.gov/service-details/masshealth-public-hearings.

February 4, 2022